

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental
Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental
Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>14094</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>RICK BOURRE</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1130</u>

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Cathodic Ground Bed Protection System		
Street: 694 Sanford Road		
Municipality: Westport, MA	Watershed: Buzzards Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N4612185.5 E324723.7	Latitude: N 41 ° 38' 30.3" Longitude: W 71 ° 6' 18.6"	
Estimated commencement date: Fall 2007	Estimated completion date: Winter 2007	
Approximate cost: \$125,000	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC		
Street: 890 Winter Street		
Municipality: Waltham	State: MA	Zip Code: 02451
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: John Zimmer		
Firm/Agency: ENSR	Street: 95 State Road	
Municipality: Sagamore Beach	State: MA	Zip Code: 02562
Phone: 508-888-3900 x 226	Fax: 508-888-6689	E-mail: jzimmer@ensr.aecom.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
 a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): None

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify:) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **ACOE PGP II, Order of Conditions – Westport Conservation Commission, MEPA Certificate; 401 WQC**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage				
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		21,862		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify: No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify: PH1470, PH1435, WH254) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC ("Algonquin") is proposing to install an approximately 1,094 foot long cathodic protection ground bed system in the vicinity of its existing underground natural gas pipeline system located off Sanford Road in Westport, Massachusetts. The proposed ground bed system will include a utility pole, an electric current rectifier mounted on the utility pole, buried cables and a series of anodes connected to the cables. The proposed ground bed system is to be located within and perpendicular to Algonquin's existing permanent easement and connected to Algonquin's existing pipeline system (see Section VI).

The proposed cathodic protection system will be constructed in the vicinity of Algonquin's existing underground natural gas pipeline system located off Sanford Road in Westport, Massachusetts (see Section III, Figure 1). The site currently contains an existing Algonquin meter station, 75-foot Algonquin gas easement, and existing 10-inch and 20-inch diameter natural gas pipelines. An extensive bordering vegetated wetland system is located to the immediate east of the existing meter station perimeter fencing (see Section VII). Algonquin maintains the pipeline ROW on a regular basis in a herbaceous/scrub shrub cover for operational and monitoring purposes. This maintenance has resulted in the colonization of a number of invasive species within and adjacent to the ROW such as autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), american bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Deciduously forested wetlands are located to the north and south of the cleared ROW consisting of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*).

The project plan (see Section VI) shows the location of the proposed system. The total construction workspace required to install this system is approximately 21,000 square feet. The primary cable will be installed on the south side of the existing Algonquin ROW and will extend approximately 423-feet east to the proposed cathodic protection easement. The proposed 20-foot workspace in the existing ROW will be located on the southern side of the existing 10-inch and 20-inch natural gas pipelines. The cable will be installed by a conventional open trench and backfilling method. The trench will be approximately 20-inches wide by 10-inches deep, and all excavated spoil will be stockpiled adjacent to the activity. After the cable is installed the trench will be immediately backfilled and the construction workspace will be restored and seeded with New England wet mix.

The proposed cathodic protection bed easement will be approximately 20-feet wide and 671 feet long. The installation of the anode cable will involve the selective clearing of trees. The anode cable will be installed to avoid mature trees to the extent possible, thereby minimizing clearing. Only trees and/or limbs that would interfere with the movement and operation of the trenching equipment (small backhoe) would be removed within the easement. The trench will be approximately 20-inches wide by 24-inches deep. Algonquin does not anticipate any routine vegetative maintenance of the new easement and; therefore, the forest community will be allowed to revert back to pre-project conditions. Due to the sites seasonal high water table and the low strength of the soil, swamp/timber mats will be installed to support the construction equipment and avoid rutting of the wetland soil. Once the system has been installed and backfilled, all pre-existing contours will be re-established. No material will be brought into or removed from the site during installation of the ground bed. The proposed installation of the junction box and the rectifier will be located within the existing developed meter station facility.

The proposed ground bed will provide significant benefit to the public by maintaining safe and reliable natural gas transmission to local markets. Algonquin's existing pipeline system must continue to remain reliable to meet demand, maintain uninterrupted service and remain in compliance with USDOT regulations. The No Build Alternative will not meet the project purpose of providing adequate cathodic protection on the pipeline system to meet USDOT regulations and ensure the continued safe operation of the pipelines. Therefore, the No Build Alternative is not a feasible option.

The installation of a ground bed unit within the existing ROW is typically reserved for cathodic protection along relatively short sections of pipeline. Generally, the ground bed conduit is installed adjacent to the pipeline section that needs the protection. The ground bed discharges an electric current into the ground, which immediately flows towards the pipeline. The attraction of the electric current to the nearby pipeline keeps the current's range to a relatively small area.

The preferred alternative involves installing an approximately 1,094 foot long cathodic protection ground bed system within and adjacent to the existing ROW to achieve the project objective of increasing cathodic protection levels on the pipeline system to meet federal regulations. This preferred alternative utilizes a portion of the existing, maintained Algonquin right-of-way. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recognizes that siting of ancillary pipeline facilities within existing rights-of-way minimizes impacts to unaltered areas.

The open cut method of ground bed installation will temporarily impact bordering vegetated wetlands. The disturbed areas will be fully restored to pre-project conditions, following the installation of the ground bed system. Algonquin understands the sensitive nature of the project area and will require the contractor to use all appropriate measures to the impact on wetland system. All proposed work shall be conducted in accordance with Spectra Energy Transmission Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices Work Plan (Plan) (see Section V, Appendix D), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Plan and Procedures (see Section V Appendix E) and standards for work within wetlands.

After the cathodic protection ground bed is installed, the ground surfaces in the project area will be restored to approximate pre-construction conditions. This restoration will include backfilling the trench to restore contours, and seeding with a wetland seed mix to quickly reestablish vegetative cover in the resource areas. The ROW and proposed cathodic protection easement is expected to quickly revegetate from the seed stock contained in its surface layer. After construction, all debris and extra material will be removed from the site.

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

- A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 Yes No; if yes, specify each threshold: **Alteration of 25 or more acres of land; Conversion of Article 97 land**

II. Impacts and Permits